

July-August 2000

# NOTES

## *200 Years of Summer Concerts*



PUBLISHED FOR THE FRIENDS OF THE U.S. MARINE BAND

# Summer Tradition

*Celebrating 200 Years of Washington Performances*

**O**n August 21, 1800, on a hill overlooking the Potomac, a small group of Marine Band musicians presented their first performance in Washington, DC, the nation's new capital city.

Led by Drum Major William Farr and dressed in their brilliant red coats trimmed in blue, the 2-year-old Marine Band began an important tradition of public service that would survive 200 years—the tradition of sharing its music with the people of Washington.

Two centuries later, "The President's Own" will mark this anniversary with a special public performance on **Sunday, August 20, at 8 p.m.** on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial. Details will be posted on the Marine Band website at [www.marineband.usmc.mil](http://www.marineband.usmc.mil) as they become available.

One month before their first Washington concert, the members of the Marine Band had moved from Philadelphia,

travelling by ship, stagecoach, and on foot. They set up camp near what is now E Street, between 23rd and 25th Streets, NW, in a city of "mud, cowpaths, and wooden huts," as described in written accounts.

From the beginning, the band was warmly received throughout the city. During Martin Van Buren's presidency in the 1840s, the Marine Band began regular public performances outside the U.S. Capitol building, a tradition that continues today.

In January 1845, President John Tyler invited the Marine Band to present public concerts on the South Lawn of the White House. These continued for nearly a hundred years.

After Tyler left office, President James Polk added a caveat to the South Lawn concerts in deference to his wife's wishes: no dancing. President Zachary Taylor later reinstated the dancing.

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**19th Director Captain William H. Santelmann leads the Marine Band in concert at the East Terrace of the U.S. Capitol in 1899. John Philip Sousa, Director from 1880-92, noted in his autobiography, "...Wednesday concerts at the Capitol drew large audiences, although we suffered from the noise of street cars and carriages passing near the bandstand."**



## Quotable Quotes...

*The Marine Band concert yesterday afternoon on the South Lawn of the President's [house] was a real success. ...There were all the features of former concerts...the soft turf to walk upon...the vistas of trees...the circle of promenaders...the strains of Verdi, Meyerbeer, or Strauss wafted to the ear.*

—Walt Whitman, who reviewed concerts from 1866-72 for *The (Washington) Sunday Herald*

## White House Highlights

Recent Marine Band appearances at the White House include:

- Reception for the Washington Opera and Plácido Domingo
- Working lunch for the President of Egypt
- Economic Conference
- Women's Day event
- Spring Garden Tour
- White House Volunteers event
- Earth Day event
- Annual Easter Egg Roll
- Hate Crimes Statement
- Luncheon for leaders of the Nordic countries
- Reception for the Metropolitan Museum of Modern Art
- White House Teen Conference
- Teacher of the Year event
- King Hussein Memorial and Queen Noor event
- Reception for the Women's NBA Champions
- State Dinner for the President of South Africa

## Celebrate Independence with the Marine Band on National Public Radio

Join "The President's Own" for a classical celebration of liberty on **July 4 at 9:30 p.m.** eastern time when National Public Radio airs 30 minutes of patriotic music performed by the Marine Band.

The program, which will follow the broadcast of the National Symphony Orchestra's performance at the U.S. Capitol, will feature Henry Fillmore's march "Americans We," John Philip Sousa's march "Glory of the Yankee Navy," Robert Russell Bennett's *Suite of Old American Dances*, and Morton Gould's "American Salute."

## Marine Jazz at the U.S. Navy Memorial

A Marine Band jazz combo will perform for the U.S. Navy Memorial Foundation's "Concerts on the Avenue" series on **Tuesday, August 1, at 8 p.m.** The concert will take place at the U.S. Navy Memorial, located between 7th and 9th streets on Pennsylvania Avenue in northwest Washington, DC. Patrons riding METRO should take the yellow/green line to Archives/Navy Memorial Station. The concert is free, open to the public, with no tickets required.

## A Musical Rebirth for the Historic Tariff Building

A brass quintet from "The President's Own" performed for the "unboarding" of Washington's historic Tariff Building in May, continuing a tradition of marking the significant moments in the lives of many buildings and monuments in the nation's capital.

The 161-year-old Tariff Building, Washington's first marble structure, had been boarded up and vacant since 1996. The event launched the rehabilitation of this landmark, which was the capital's main post office in the 19th century and issued the first U.S. postage stamps and post cards. During various periods, the building also housed the Secretary of the Interior and the U.S. Tariff Commission, as well as meetings of Congress after the Capitol was burned by the British in 1814.



**Dried seed pods provide the perfect rhythmic accompaniment to Latin-American music, explains percussionist SSgt Chris Rose to T.C. Williams Band Director Robert Zazzara.**

## "Music in the High Schools" has a Latin-American Sound

"The President's Own" shared a sampling of Latin-American melodies and rhythms with Washington, DC, area high school students during the band's second annual "Music In The High Schools" program in early May. Titled "Cinco de Mayo," the concerts included music by Revueltas, Chávez, and Florenzo and featured a wide range of instrumentation, including solo euphonium and percussion; solo marimba; strings, wind, and percussion; and a saxophone quartet.

"It's really neat to see and hear [this type of music] in smaller settings and to learn about the various approaches the composers take," said Sam Dingman, a saxophone-playing senior at T.C. Williams High School in Alexandria, VA. "There is so much emotion, and when you hear it played flawlessly, it's very impressive."

## CONCERT PROGRAMS

**The following is a partial list of July and August programs.**

**Additional information, including details about the band's special concert on Sunday, August 20, at 8 p.m. at the Lincoln Memorial, will be posted on the band's website at [www.marineband.usmc.mil](http://www.marineband.usmc.mil) and 24-hour Concert Information Line at (202) 433-4011 as it becomes available.**

**U.S. Marine Band  
Sunday, July 9 at 8 p.m.  
Sylvan Theater**

*Captain Michael J. Colburn, conducting*

John Williams/arr. Curnow  
Liberty Fanfare

Morton Gould/trans. Lang  
"American Salute"

Eduardo Boccalari/trans. Kent  
Euphonium Solo, Fantasia di Concerto  
*Matthew Summers, soloist*

Donald Grantham  
*Southern Harmony*

John Philip Sousa  
March, "Hail to the Spirit of Liberty"

Richard Rodgers/arr. R.R. Bennett  
adapted by R. Mark Rogers  
*Oklahoma!*

Samuel Augustus Ward/arr. Dragon  
"America, the Beautiful"

John Philip Sousa/ed. Byrne  
March, "The Stars and Stripes Forever"

**U.S. Marine Band  
Wednesday, July 26 at 8 p.m.  
U.S. Capitol, West Terrace  
Sunday, July 30 at 8 p.m.  
Sylvan Theater**

*Captain Michael J. Colburn, conducting*

Charles Young  
"Tempered Steel"

Amilcare Ponchielli/arr. Lind  
Clarinet Duet, "Il Convegno"  
*Jason Fetting and Paul Demers, soloists*

Ottorino Respighi/trans. Godfrey  
*La Boutique fantasque* (after Rossini)

arranged by Stephen Bulla  
Tribute to Louis Armstrong  
*Daniel Orban, trumpet soloist*

Dmitri Shostakovich/trans. Hines  
Presto from Symphony No. 6 in B minor,  
Opus 54

**U.S. Marine Band  
Wednesday, August 23 at 8 p.m.  
U.S. Capitol, West Terrace  
Sunday, August 27 at 8 p.m.  
Sylvan Theater**

*Captain Michael J. Colburn, conducting*

Franz von Suppé/trans. Moses-Tobani  
ed. Kent  
Overture to *Pique Dame*

Herbert L. Clarke  
Cornet Solo, "The Southern Cross"  
*Steven Matera, soloist*

Norman Dello Jolo  
*Satiric Dances*

Henri Rabaud/trans. Gee  
Clarinet Solo, "Solo de Concours"  
*Randall Riffle, soloist*

Leroy Anderson  
Leroy Anderson Tribute

**Please note that there are no  
concerts on July 2 and 5, and  
programs are subject to change.**

**Inclement weather cancellations  
will be announced the day of the  
concert after 6 p.m. on the band's  
Concert Information Line at  
(202) 433-4011.**

**For information about Friday  
Evening Parades at Marine  
Barracks, Washington, please call  
(202) 433-6060.**





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and ordered waltzes, polkas, and military music every summer night on the lawn. By this time, gas lamps illuminated Washington's evening skies.

President Abraham Lincoln, a fan of the band's summer concerts on the White House Lawn, would often listen while resting on a sofa in the Blue Room, with the shutters closed. On one occasion, when the President stepped onto the South Portico, the audience clamored for a speech. He returned indoors, saying, "I wish they would let me sit out there quietly and enjoy the music."

After his son Willie died, however, these concerts were cancelled at Mrs. Lincoln's request. The public missed the White House performances so much that in June 1863 Secretary of the Navy Gideon Welles petitioned President Lincoln to reinstate them. Welles described the public's "grumbling and discontent" in his diary, writing, "The public will not sympathize in sorrows which are obtrusive and assigned as a reason for depriving them of enjoyments to which they have become accustomed." The concerts were moved to Lafayette Square and began again the following month.

Band music was the most popular musical genre in the late 1800s. During the tenure of 17th Director John Philip Sousa, weekly programs and musician rosters were published in newspapers much like today's television listings. Crowds at the White House and the Capitol routinely swelled to 5,000 per concert.

The band's White House duties and schedule of public concerts (including numerous war bond rallies) greatly increased during both World Wars. In the summer of 1918, for example, the band performed Monday afternoons at Marine Barracks, Tuesday and Thursday evenings in various city parks, Wednesdays at the Capitol, and Saturdays and Sundays at the White House. Friday evening concerts at the Sylvan Theater on the Washington Monument grounds were added early in the season.

Over the years, more than a few concerts have been cancelled because of rain. Later in the 20th century, however, the weather was not only responsible for canceling a performance but for



**In 1972, Hurricane Agnes wiped out a popular Marine Band concert venue when it destroyed a floating stage anchored on the Potomac River, set with music stands and chairs.**

destroying an entire concert venue. For a number of years on the Potomac River, an immense barge—and later a smaller floating stage—was a popular site for the Marine Band's Sunday evening concerts. More than 8,000 people would sit on the west steps of the Lincoln Memorial and listen to the band, and others would enjoy the music from boats anchored nearby.

In June 1972, Hurricane Agnes caused widespread flooding in the Northeast region. Raging waters overflowing the banks of the Potomac destroyed the floating stage, leaving no time to remove the music stands and chairs. The U.S. Park Service contacted Director LtCol Dale Harpham on Friday, June 23, with news that the area was severely damaged, and it would be impossible to hold the Sunday concert. Concerts never returned to the floating stage.

Through two centuries, "The President's Own" U.S. Marine Band has serenaded Washingtonians and visitors in concert. From the first informal performance near the Lincoln Memorial to concerts every week at the Capitol and Sylvan Theater, the Marine Band looks forward to continuing this important tradition of public service for years to come.

## **The tradition continues**

This year, "The President's Own" continues its popular summer concert series. Performances will take place **July through August except July 2 and 5**, Wednesday evenings on the West Terrace of the U.S. Capitol building and Sunday evenings at the Sylvan Theater on the Washington Monument grounds. Concerts begin at 8 p.m. and are open to the public.

If riding METRO, take the red line to Union Station or the blue/orange line to Capitol South for concerts at the U.S. Capitol. For concerts at the Sylvan Theater, take the blue/orange line to the Smithsonian Station. Limited street parking is often available near both concert sites. Inclement weather cancellations will be announced the day of the concert on the band's Concert Information Line at (202) 433-4011.



## STAFF LINES

**GySgt Robert Boguslaw****Pianist****Birthday:** July 5, 1957**Hometown:** Cherry Hill, NJ**Family:** Married to Mary; daughters Nicole, 12, Gabrielle, 11, and step-daughter Hosanna, 28**Pets:** Rowdy, a Black Labrador Retriever; Swirl, an iguana; and Baby Grey, a cockatiel**Education:** BM from the University of Miami (FL), MM from the University of Kentucky**Joined the band:** March 1991**Self-portrait:** Humorous, peaceful, serious, high-strung, and enigmatic**Favorite Saying:** "Too much is enough."**Greatest Accomplishment:** My daughters**Pet Peeve:** People who will never admit that they are wrong**Favorite movie:** *King of Hearts***Who would play you in a movie:** Peter Sellers**Walter Mitty Fantasy:** Performing Brahms' Concerto No. 2 in B-flat with the Chicago Symphony**Most Memorable Moment in Band:**

Performing the world premier of Fred Coulter's "Capriccio" for Piano and Wind Ensemble

**Inspiration:** Glen Gould's "Goldberg Variations," John Coltrane's "A Love Supreme"**Best-kept secret:** My first paying gig was performing bluegrass on mandolin**Favorite foods:** Pasta with olive oil and garlic and Mary's homemade pies**Hobbies:** Bike riding, canoeing, reading, golf**Bad Habits:** Talking too much and bossing my children around**Three things always found in your refrigerator:** Grapefruit, Swiss cheese, and pasta left-overs**Most influential teachers:** Dr. Lucien Stark of the University of Kentucky and Dr. Fred Coulter of the University of Miami**Professional experience before the band:** New Hampshire Music Festival and touring South America as keyboardist for José Luis Rodríguez**Luxury defined:** Eating tropical fruit during a return trip from snorkeling on a Caribbean reef**Books at bedside:** Noah Gordon's *The Physician*, Ken Follett's *The Pillars of the Earth***Favorite piece of music:** Messiaen's "Quartet for the End of Time"**Place you'd most like to be stranded:** Port Antonio, TX**Last words:** "I've been blessed."**Retirement**

Baritone vocalist and concert moderator Master Gunnery Sergeant Michael Ryan

retired during a special performance before a capacity crowd at GMU's Center for the Arts on May 21. During his retirement ceremony, MGySgt Ryan was awarded the Meritorious

Service Medal. The medal's citation noted his lyrical voice, commanding stage presence, and thoughtful musical analysis.

**U.S. Marine Corps Commandant General James Jones and Mrs. Jones greet MGySgt Ryan at his retirement concert.****Vacancies**

"The President's Own" announces auditions for the following vacancies:

**Trumpet:** August 7-8**Co-Principal Oboe:** September 15-16For more information, please write to:  
**Operations Officer, U.S. Marine Band**  
8th and I Streets, SE  
Washington, DC 20390-5000  
(202) 433-5714**E-Mail:** HurleyJM@mbw.usmc.milAudition repertoire may be found at  
[www.marineband.usmc.mil](http://www.marineband.usmc.mil)**Recordings Available**The recordings "Esprit de Corps" and "Marches In Concert" are available through the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation. For more information, call (800) 397-7585 or write to: *Marine Corps Heritage Foundation*, P.O. Box 420, 715 Broadway, Quantico, VA 22134. Their website is [www.marineheritage.org](http://www.marineheritage.org).

Proceeds from the sale of these recordings support the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation's official programs.